

UTILITY EASEMENT EXCHANGE AGREEMENT Woods Ranch Wildlife Management Area

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, an agency of the State of Montana, whose main address is 1420 East Sixth Avenue, P O Box 200701, Helena, Montana 59620 ("FWP"), and Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc., a Montana corporation in good standing, whose address is PO Box 628, Eureka, MT 59917 ("LEC").

RECITALS

- I. FWP is the owner of certain real property located in Lincoln County, Montana, commonly known as Woods Ranch Wildlife Management Area ("WRWMA").
- II. LEC is the nonexclusive owner of two permanent utility easements, a portion or all of which are located within the WMA, described in two unrecorded utility easements, referenced as follows:
- A. Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc., Eureka, Montana, Right of Way Easement, dated February 8, 1950, from John T. Moore to Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc., described as follows:

NW, SE, W ½ NE, SeNe; w ½ nw, nw, sw-e 1/2sw and lot 8; Sec 7 Twn 37 Rge26 NWNE, less 7 acres, Sec. 18 – 37 – 26; NESE Sec 12 – 37 – 27; NE ¼ Sec. 12-37-27 Lots 4 & 5 Sec. 6 -37 -26; Lots 1 & 2 less 17 acres of lot 2 and S1/2SE, 1 – 37-27 S1/2SW – 13-37-27; NWNE, 24-37-27, NENE & SESW & E ½ NW-N ½ SW, Sec 24 -37 -27. E ½ NW Sec. 25 -37-27. And E ½ SW, W ½ SE Sec. 18 -35 -27; and Lots 1&2 &E 1/2NW, Sec 19-35-27 W ½ SE, 12 – 37 -27; NWNE, 13 -37-27; NESW; SENW Tract in NENW Sec 13 – 37 – 27 SESE; SWSW, Sec 12 -37-27; NENE; W ½ NW; NWSW Sec 13 -37 -27; Lot 1 Sec 18-37-26 SWSW; SESW; S ½ SE, Sec 23 -37 -27; W ½ SE, SW, SESE,SW, Sec 6-37-26; Lot 5, 7-26 SWSW, Sec 24 -37 - 27; NESW, Sec 25 -37 -27.

B. Right of Way Easement dated August 23, 1972, from Glen P. Wood and Rose Wood, a/k/a Glen P. and Rose Woods, to Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc., described as follows:

A right-of-way 20' wide, located in the E ½, SW ¼, S7 & NW ¼, NE ¼, S18, T37N, R26W, to construct a 25 KV single phase overhead power line to serve consumers east of this area, & the SW ¼ SW ¼ sec. 7, T37N, R26W.

Collectively, the above-described easements shall be referenced herein as the "current utility easements", which easements contain above-ground electrical utility lines, poles and equipment.

III. LEC wishes to exchange the current utility easements with one new permanent utility easement in a different location within the WMA, depicted in the survey attached hereto and incorporated herein ("new utility easement"), for the purpose of removing above-ground utility lines, along with all associated poles and equipment, and installing underground electrical utility lines, along with associated equipment.

- IV. The benefits to FWP include the following:
 - Mitigating the risk of an accidental fire on the WRWMA;
 - · Returning portions of the WRWMA to a more natural aesthetic;
 - Improving big game winter security by moving the current easement to existing roads and allowing utility maintenance consistent with WRWMA closure dates;
 - Minimizing the spread of noxious weeds via overhead line maintenance equipment;
 - Reducing the potential of avian collision with overhead lines on the WRWMA;
 - Reducing the potential of wildlife or human electrocution from downed overhead lines;
 and
 - Improving safety when conducting aerial game surveys on the WRWMA.

AGREEMENT

NOW THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION of the terms and conditions of this Exchange Agreement, FWP and LEC agree as follows:

- A. <u>CLOSING</u>: At closing, LEC agrees to convey to FWP a Discharge of Utility Easements regarding the current utility easements and FWP agrees to convey to LEC a Utility Easement regarding the new utility easement. FWP represents to LEC that the new utility easement will be conveyed together with any appurtenant rights, but subject to all existing prior reservations, easements, or encumbrances. LEC represents to FWP that the current utility easements will be discharged free and clear of reservations, easements and encumbrances placed on the current utility easements. The Utility Easement regarding the new utility easement will be prepared by LEC subject to approval by FWP, and the Discharge of Utility Easements regarding the current utility easements will be prepared by FWP subject to approval by LEC.
- B. <u>CLOSING COSTS & FEES</u>: The easement documents will be exchanged at a time and date to be mutually agreed upon, but prior to December 31, 2020. The date of closing may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties.

LEC agrees to pay recording fees and closing costs if any for both the Utility Easement and Discharge of Utility Easements with the current easements attached to said Discharge.

- C. <u>PROPERTY VALUE & CONSIDERATION</u>: The parties acknowledge and agree that this is an equal value exchange. Additional benefits to FWP include those listed above.
- **D.** <u>REMOVING EXISTING UTILITIES</u>: LEC covenants that it shall remove all existing above-ground utility lines, poles and equipment in the current utility easement, within a reasonable time after closing, at its own expense. This provision shall survive closing.
- E. <u>MODIFICATIONS</u>: This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and that no statements, promises or inducements made by either party that are not contained in this Agreement will be valid or binding. It is further agreed that no modification or alteration of

this Agreement will be upheld as valid unless evidenced in writing and signed by all parties.

- F. <u>SPECIAL APPROVALS AND CONTINGENCIES</u>: FWP's obligations under this Agreement are expressly contingent on the approval of the exchange by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. In the event FWP is unable to timely obtain the necessary approval after reasonable, good faith efforts to do so by the date of closing, FWP may terminate this Agreement and the obligations of all parties hereto shall be discharged.
- G. <u>FURTHER ASSURANCES</u>: The Parties agree to negotiate and execute any documents or instruments necessary after closing, if required, to fully effectuate the terms of this Agreement.
- H. EXECUTION IN COUNTERPARTS AND BY EMAIL: The parties agree that this Agreement may be executed in counterparts and with signatures delivered by electronic means. Such execution will, whether by original signatures or by emailed scans thereof, bind the parties, notwithstanding that all parties may not have signed the same copy of this Agreement.

	Agreement.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties, 2020.	have executed this agreement this 3RP day of
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.
By: Martha Williams, Director	By: Breezal Manager

